

other minorities in the spheres of education, politics and the labor force.

Albert A. Peña Jr. was born on December 15, 1917, in the city of San Antonio. He attended Tech High School and St. Mary's University prior to serving a commission in the United States Navy. Afterwards, he returned to Texas and obtained a law degree in 1950 from South Texas School of Law in Houston. Shortly thereafter, he joined his family's law firm of Peña, Peña & Peña.

Judge Peña became politically engaged on multiple fronts. In the early stages of his life, his primary concern was advocating for school integration. He fought arduously for this cause by providing pro bono services in numerous suits brought against school districts across South Texas. His efforts resulted in the integration of schools in Lytle, Hondo and Natalia, Texas.

From 1956 to 1972, Judge Peña served as Bexar County Commissioner and, in addition to promoting equity in the field of education, worked tirelessly to protect and defend minority rights. It was during his final tenure as Commissioner when Peña lost a re-election bid in 1972 because he defended the right of Angela Davis, a black Communist Party member and assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, to a fair trial—this at a time when Americans did not approve of those political beliefs. It was a true display of his dedication to safeguarding the liberties of not only Mexican Americans but that of all political and racial minorities.

Judge Peña returned to the world of public service with his appointment as municipal court judge in 1977. As judge, he endorsed a doctrine of equity with the end goal of social justice in mind, a philosophy that guided his actions until he stepped down as presiding municipal court judge in 1992. In addition to his responsibilities as a public official, Judge Peña devoted much of his personal time to the community. He helped found the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Mexican American Unity Council, organized the United Automobile Workers of San Antonio, and presided as the State Chairman of the Political Association for Spanish Speaking Organizations.

On behalf of those influenced by Judge Peña's far reaching efforts, I stand today to applaud this great public servant. Judge Peña's labors are testimony to his life long dedication to the Mexican American Community, the City of San Antonio and its citizens. It is unfortunate he is no longer with us and I mourn his passing. Nonetheless, through commemorating his life's work we can ensure his legacy. Therefore, I urge you all to join me in honoring this great leader.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNUAL SALINE COUNTY FAIR

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend brings the opening of the 100th Annual Saline County Fair in Harrisburg, Illinois. For the past century, the Saline County Fair has served as a community event unlike any other in this southeastern Illinois county. From its agricul-

tural shows, to the popular floral hall, to the first-rate music and entertainment, to the all-American experience of strolling a traditional carnival midway with a corn dog and a lemon shake-up, the Saline County Fair has brought a spirit of community and fun to the residents of Saline County for 100 years.

I want to congratulate Saline County Fair Manager Dennis Wilson, and the fair staff: Allison Wilson, Connie Harbison, Lori Wilson, Brad Henshaw, Marjorie Dotson, George Henley, Mike Williams, Danny Evans, Dwight Mezo, Chris Harbison, Chris Evans, Jane Richey, Jodi Wilson, Darlene Stafford and Rona Littlefield, as well as all the hard working members of the Saline County 4-H, the University of Illinois Extension, the Town and Country Lions Club, the exhibitors, the contestants, the vendors, the sponsors and the good people of southeastern Illinois who have made the Saline County Fair such a great event over the past century, and I wish them another hundred years of success.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN HULL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in acknowledgment of the extreme generosity of one of my constituents. I wish to recognize the kindness of Jean Hull from Marble Rock, Iowa; a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Recently, Mrs. Hull and her veteran husband purchased an expensive electric chair. It is with sadness that I say Mr. Hull died shortly thereafter. Instead of returning the chair valued at \$6,000, Mrs. Hull kindly and unselfishly donated the chair to the Iowa Veterans Home in honor of her late husband.

This thoughtful and selfless act deserves honoring, and thus I stand today and recognize the act of Mrs. Jean Hull.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THALIA DONDERO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Thalia Dondero, for her outstanding service to the Southern Nevada community. She will be awarded the Public Education Foundation's Education Hero Award on September 16, 2006.

Thalia moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1942, and a few years later met and married her husband Harvey, a Las Vegas High School teacher. The newly married couple relocated to Carson City, Nevada in 1946 when Harvey went to work for the United States Office of Education.

In 1948, Thalia and her husband moved back to Las Vegas and she began her involvement in public education at the Mayfield Grade School. She was also active in the Service League, served as director of the Las Vegas Girl Scouts, and was appointed to the Nevada State Parks Commission.

Thalia was elected to the Clark County Commission in 1974 and served for 20 years,

and was the first female Commissioner. During her tenure at the Commission, she served as Chairperson three times, and made the news when she refused to act as the secretary for the male members.

Her public service continued in 1996, when she was elected to the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, where she fought to improve the education system in Southern Nevada. Thalia has served one term as Board vice chair and two terms as chair. Currently, she is chair of the Investment Committee and serves on several others.

Thalia continues to be a giving public servant and a true patron of education. She has been appointed to many committees and boards that help serve the community of Southern Nevada. Thalia and her husband have given a great deal to the community and are invaluable residents of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Thalia Dondero on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to Southern Nevada and thank her for her continued service to our education system.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE JUDGE JAMES DEANDA

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Nation mourns the passing of WWII veteran and legal giant, retired U.S. District Judge James deAnda, who died on Thursday, September 7, 2006 at the age of 81. His life-long dedication to the protection of Americans has made him an icon in the legal profession and a pioneer of the American civil rights movement.

Born in Houston, Texas to parents who immigrated from Mexico, Judge deAnda was one of the first Mexican American attorneys to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. In arguing *Hernandez v. Texas*, a companion case to *Brown v. Board of Education*, before the Court in 1954, Judge deAnda earned a major victory for all Americans when the Court voted to overturn an all-white jury's conviction of a Mexican-American defendant. The Supreme Court held that prejudice and discrimination against Mexican Americans in Texas was so pervasive that the conviction had not been determined by a jury of his peers.

In 1968, deAnda again went before the Supreme Court in the case of *Cisneros v. Corpus Christi ISD*. This case led to the desegregation and increased funding of schools in that city. That same year, he co-founded the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF, which continues to serve as a legal advocate for the Hispanic community and as a promoter of Hispanic empowerment.

In 1979, after decades of practicing law, Judge deAnda received an appointment from former President Jimmy Carter to serve as a federal judge in the Southern District of Texas; he was subsequently confirmed and became the nation's second Mexican-American federal district judge.

Remarking upon the passing of a MALDEF co-founder, current MALDEF interim President and General Counsel John Trasviña noted, "Judge deAnda was a treasure of immense